

MISSOURI YOUNG FARMERS

Welcome to Boonville Area for the YF/YFW State Tour

Thursday, July 28th - Saturday, July 30th 2016

*The Adult Farm
Management group
and the Boonville
FFA Boosters look
forward to seeing
each of you July 28th
-July 30th.*

*See inside on pages for
more information on the
tours and schedule and the
registration form*

*Background photo by
Jessica Grathwohl*



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A Changing Time

by Ross Becker, State YF/YFW President

As this is my first article as president, I thought it was important to talk about some changes we are going through, as an organization. First of all, like many organizations, the Young Farmers has been in a bit of a membership slump on both a state and national level. At the state convention delegate session this past February, a constitutional amendment was voted on and passed, to make Missouri a national affiliate state, which makes every Missouri YF member a national YF member. This should help strengthen the national organization by increasing its membership and giving Missouri more control over what is going on by gaining votes at the national convention as the number of votes a state gets is based on how many national members that state has. In the past if someone wanted to be a national member the cost was \$15 per person, but since we are now an affiliate state, national dues are only \$2 a person.

Next, due to the membership slump, we have been struggling financially on a state level. For the past several years we have been operating at a deficit of over \$5,000 a year. Luckily we have money saved up from better times to cover the budget shortcoming, but we can't continue to operate in the red forever. To correct the issue and cover the national dues, a proposal was voted on and passed at the state convention to raise yearly state dues from \$6 to \$15.

Finally some good news; over the next year the state executive committee will be working hard to find ways to save money, gain sponsorship, and utilize the money we have to better serve our members. Our number one priority is with the newsletter where we will be returning to three full-color printed issues and will be adding more educational articles every issue and add space for local chapters to advertise upcoming events. MFA has offered to print the upgraded newsletter at their in-house print shop, at basically the same per issue price as we have been paying in the past. We will also be doing more of the layout work ourselves and looking for a new editor to save money as well as working hard to correct some issues with our mailing list to make sure the issues are getting to the correct address. If you know anyone that has not been receiving the newsletter and should be, please let us know so we can get their address corrected in our system. (Continued on page 4)



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Sweet Springs FFA member wins FFA Proficiency Award sponsored by Missouri Young Farmers



Olivia Loges of Sweet Springs, Mo., won the Missouri FFA Agricultural Communications Entrepreneurship and Placement Combined Proficiency Award at the 88th Missouri FFA Convention. The award is sponsored by the Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives.

Loges, a graduate of Sweet Springs R-7 High School, is the daughter of Doug Loges and

Diana Ernst. She is a member of the Sweet Springs FFA chapter. Her FFA advisors are Kristen Fener and Brent Niemeyer.

Loges supervised agricultural experience program includes employment as a livestock photographer by ShowPhoto by Katina and Pearl's Pics Photography and Design. Loges photographs livestock both in the show ring and a backdrop. Loges is also involved in CAFNR Corner Post, an independent agricultural news source for students at the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources at the University of Missouri - Columbia.

Loges has been an exhibitor in livestock shows at the state and national level. Loges also has competed at the state level in the livestock judging, agricultural sales, agricultural issues and knowledge career development events.

In addition to FFA, Loges is involved with the Missouri Club Calf Association, the Missouri Junior Cattlemen's Association, the Mis-

souri Show Pig Circuit, and the Missouri State Fair.

Loges is currently pursuing a degree in science and agricultural journalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Loges hopes to have a career working for a company like Farm Journal or RFD-TV.

Proficiency awards recognize FFA members who excel as agricultural entrepreneurs, employees or volunteers while gaining hands-on career experience. Agricultural Communications is one of 48 proficiency award areas recognized at the state level.

Kenneth A. Taylor of Auxvasse, Mo., received the second place Missouri FFA Agricultural Communications Entrepreneurship and Placement Combined Proficiency Award. Taylor, a senior at North Callaway High School, is the son of Kevin and Christina Wilkerson. He is a member of the North Callaway FFA Chapter. His FFA advisors are Katie Milhollin and Billy Grannemann

A Changing Time

(continued from page 3)

Aside from the newsletter we are looking into the possibility of taking \$20,000 that has been sitting in cds making about \$15 a year and starting a self-sustaining scholarship fund making \$500+ a year.

As many of you know another constitutional amendment was voted on and failed at convention to change our name from the "Missouri Young Farmers / Young Farm Wives Organization" to "the

Missouri Agri-Leaders". With many of our members getting older and working off the farm, it may be time to update our name to something simpler that will help us stand out from the other two organizations; Farm Bureau's "Young Farmers and Ranchers" and the "Young Farmers Coalition". Missouri Agri-Leaders may not be the way to go, so we are looking for input on a new name that describes our organization, while keeping some of our heritage as an educational organization for people in-

involved in farming and agriculture..

In closing, I believe this organization is just as important today as it was when it was first started. I am honored to have been chosen to be the MYF/YFW president and plan on doing everything I can to help lead our organization into the future. I am always open to suggestions or available to answer questions, so feel free to contact me. After all, this organization is for all of us, not just the few of us in the executive committee.



The 2016 MYF/YFW FFA Speaking Contest Finals were held at the State Convention on February 6th, 2016 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Columbia. Pictured with Robert Chrisman, State MYF/MYFW President are left to right (with district and placing): Ashley Spear (SW, 1st Place), Gracie Blankenship, (CE, 2nd Place), Ben Luebbering, (SC, 3rd Place), Kelli Schieber (NW, District Winner), Johnee Hargis (SE, District Winner), Emily Binder (NE, District Winner), and Jennifer Thogmartin, MYF/MYFW Vice President/FFA Speaking Contest Committee Chairman.



Thank You!

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On Target Agriculture

University of Missouri College of Agriculture,
Food and Natural Resources - Friday Tour

- Dr. Leon Schumacher - Ag Systems Management
- Rick Disselhorst - Meat Lab and Market
- Cecilia Leslie - Ag Student Ambassadors/
Bucks Ice Cream

Caring for Backyard Fruit Trees by Kellar Becker



If you've got fruit trees in your yard, you may have already been working to ensure that they have what they need to be successful. Then again, maybe you ran short on time this spring and your fruit trees haven't received much attention at all. Either way, don't give up now! There are a number of disease and insect pests that can creep in just when you think you're on the road to a successful fruit crop.

One of the most beneficial things you can do to help keep your fruit trees healthy is to scout your trees throughout the season for signs of disease or insect pressure. Catching disease and pest problems early make them easier to treat.

Many trees benefit from fertilizer applications in the spring. For most trees, a basic application of a 12-12-12 fertilizer will improve their production. Through spring and summer, remember to spray fungicides and insecticides as needed. There are products specifically designed for use in home orchards. Complete Fruit Tree Spray (Bonide) is a great general use fungicide/insecticide for many trees. Fruit, Citrus & Vegetable Insect Control (Bayer Advanced) is strictly an insecticide, but will control a broader range

of insects on fruit trees, as well as on a number of vegetable crops. No matter what product is used, always read and follow the instructions on the chemical label. Make sure not to apply chemicals within the pre harvest interval (PHI), which is the amount of time that should pass between the last chemical application and harvest.

Apple: Fruit is typically ready from mid-July through late-October. Remember to thin fruit when it is small to help prevent disease and insect pressure. Thinning also helps promote a more successful fruit set the following year. There are a number of disease and insect pests that tend to attack apples. Your trees may not produce the most beautiful apples, but that does not mean you cannot eat them. However, if you are looking for blemish free, grocery store quality apples, you will need to set up a spray schedule, and applications will likely need to be made every 10-14 days during the growing season.

Cherry: Fruit is typically ready in June. When cherries are ripe, they need to be picked immediately. Don't wait too long to pick your cherries or birds will probably get to them first! There are various ways to avoid this. Some people suggest that you place netting around your trees, but this can be difficult to do. Noisemakers and moving objects can be effective in keeping birds out of your cherry trees, so be creative and use whatever method works best for you.

Pear: Fruit is typically ready from mid-June through late September. Pears are not as widely grown in Missouri

due to the fact that they are highly susceptible to fire blight. Fire blight is difficult to control. Streptomycin based products, such as Agri-mycin 17, work well to fight this disease. Fire blight and other common fruit diseases can overwinter on dead plant material. One of the best ways to lessen their presence the following year is to remove dead and diseased limbs, fruit and leaves from the tree and surrounding area.

As fall approaches, think about ways to prevent this season's problems from coming back next year. In late February/early March, dormant oil can be applied to help suppress scales and mites and to decrease their population the following season. Dormant oil is one of the safest products available to use on fruit trees and is also relatively inexpensive.

Taking a few preventative measures in the winter helps to get your trees ready for spring. Fruit trees can require some work, but the "fruits" of your labor can be both rewarding and delicious!



Kellar Becker is a Specialty Chemicals Product Manager for MFA Incorporated

Boonville Hosts 2016 Summer Tour

Make plans to attend the 45th annual YF/YFW State Tour to be held in the Boonville area. The Boonville High School Commons (BHS) located north of the 101 mile marker on I70 at 1690 West Ashley Road will be this year's headquarters.



Thursday evening will be an informal gathering at BHS. This is a great time to catch up with the friends made at previous YF/YFW tours. Registration can be finalized 6PM-8PM. The Presiding Commissioner of Cooper County will give a welcome at 7:30PM and you can enjoy some fresh homemade ice cream.

Friday and Saturday until noon will be on air conditioned coach buses for our various tour stops. Plans comprise of twelve different stops including crops, beef cattle, farm shops, and a local startup business as well as historical sites of our first settlers who arrived in 1818 can be seen.

- On two cover crop operations the good and bad about their efforts will be discussed.
- On two different cattle operations finishing cattle in hoop barns can be observed. The two operator's buyer will have discussion on different buying/grid programs available for finished cattle.
- Two new farm shops recently built will be toured with a drying system installed in the summer of

2015.

- MFA training test plot in the Howard County bottoms will be available to us and Pioneer will have an agronomy "best practices" site for viewing.
- A local growing startup company that makes waste heat recovery units for poultry and turkey barns is included as a tour stop. These patented units reduce propane usage by 50%. The company has installed units in Missouri, Nebraska and Minnesota.



A great collection of Allis Chalmers equipment can be viewed along with a tour of the historic Sappington Home and the historic towns of Arrow Rock and Boonville.



Early registration is required (deadline June 28th) for the visit to Warm Springs Ranch ("Where legends are born") home of the Budweiser Clydesdales.

YF/YFW STATE FARM TOUR

Boonville, MO July 29 - 30, 2016

www.boonville.k12.mo.us/schools/btec/pages/FarmTour.aspx

The local Adult Farm Management Group & the Boonville FFA Booster Club is excited to host the 45th Annual YF/YFW State Farm Tour! To make things easy, we will meet and eat at the Boonville High School (I-70 to exit 101 and north of I-70 one mile). Air conditioned coach buses will be our “carriage” as we enjoy our journey around Cooper, Howard & Saline Counties. This tour has something for everyone.

We will kick it off on Thursday, July 28 with an Ice Cream Social from 6:00-8:00 pm

Friday, July 29	Saturday, July 30
6:30 am – Door open with coffee available	6:30 am – Door open with coffee available
7:00 am – Breakfast	7:00 am – Breakfast
8:00 am – Load buses for tours	8:00 am – Load buses for tours
Morning Tour: Mike Bryan – Cover crops; Gary Friedrich AC display; Sappington Home Tour; Pioneer agronomy best practices; Christy Farms shop & cover crops; Drive through Arrow Rock-no stops	Morning Tour: Kueckelhan & Wassmann hoop barns and cover crops; Wieland Farms shop, drying & grain handling system; test plots
Noon – Lunch @ High School gym	Noon – Lunch at High School gym
Afternoon Tour Option 1: Boonville Historical Tours with stops, Heartland Farm Energy, MFA test plots, Fertilizer Dealer Supply	Door Prizes **Please note: In order to be guaranteed a spot at the Warm Springs Ranch (Clydesdale Farm), YOU MUST SEND THE REGISTRATION FORM & MONEY BY JUNE 28, 2016
Afternoon Tour Option 2: Warm Springs Ranch**; Heartland Farm Energy, MFA test plots, Fertilizer Dealer Supply	
6:30 pm – Supper at High School Gym	
7:30 pm – Speaker & FFA Ag Issues team	
8:00 pm – Entertainment	
Door Prizes	

Hotels & Camping Information

Holiday Inn Express: 2419 Mid American Industrial Drive, 660-882-6882 (Exit 101, 1/2 mile)

Super 8: 420 Americana Road, 660-882-2900 (Exit 101, 1/2 mile) www.super8.com

Days Inn: 2401 Pioneer Street, 660-882-8624 (Exit 103, 2.5 miles) www.daysinn.com

Frederick Hotel: 501 E High Street, 660-882-2828 (Exit 101, 3 miles) www.hotelfrederick.com

Isle of Capri: 660-882-1200 (Exit 101, 3 miles) boonville.isleofcapricasinos.com

Arrow Rock Campground: 660-837-3330 (Exit 98, 17 miles)

<https://mostateparks.com/campgrounds/arrow-rock-state-historic-site>

Missouri Young Farmer/Young Farm Wives 2016 Summer Tour Registration Form

Names and ages of attendees:

****To guarantee participation in the Warm Springs Ranch Tour, you must register no later than June 28th**

	Quantity	Amount per person	Total
Adults (13 & Up)	Early (by June 28 th) _____	X \$85.00	=
Adults (13 & Up)	Late(June 29) _____	X \$100.00	=
Children (5-12)	Early (by June 28 th) _____	X \$30.00	=
Children (5-12)	Late(June 29) _____	X \$40.00	=
Under 5 - FREE	Total Due:		\$

T-Shirt sizes (1 Free with each Paid registration)

Youth Small:	Youth Medium:	Youth Large:		
Adult Small:	Adult Medium:	Adult Large:	Adult XL:	Adult 2XL:

FFA Chapter Special

Friday Tour with lunch –

\$20/member

To add Friday night Dinner/Entertainment

Additional \$15/member

Saturday Tour with lunch –

\$10/member

(Transportation not included for either day)

Checks payable to:

“Boonville FFA Booster Club”

Send checks & registration form to:

Boonville FFA Booster Club

One Pirate Drive

Boonville, MO 65233



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Western Farm Show

By Robert Chrisman, Past MYF/MYFW President

The Western Farm Show, held in Kansas City February 26-28, was very well attended. The Missouri YF/YFW booth attracted visitors from all over Missouri as well as from several other states showing a great deal of interest in our organization. A raffle for a weather vane, attracted a great deal of interest to our booth.

A wide range of exhibitors, including John Deere, Case IH, Vermeer, New Holland, Asgrow, MFA and many others, took part in the show, with programs of interest to the ladies being presented as well as those geared more to men.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the members who helped at the booth and to express our appreciation to the Western Association for allowing Missouri YF/YFW to once again participate in the Western Farm Show.

Poor Man's Start in Precision Ag

By Derek Lowrey, State MYF/MFYW Secretary

Precision ag is something that we hear and see everywhere. Chances are that today your operation is either fully equipped with GPS equipment or you have none. With very tight margins in the coming years it's going to be very important to be as efficient as possible. The use of precision equipment is a very good way to make sure your operation is being as efficient as it can be. Where should someone invest their money into precision equipment though? What if your equipment is not very modern or in our case, mainly homemade? These were questions we dealt with on our own operation. I'd like to share how our operation was fairly cost effectively able to equip almost all of our equipment.

On our operation when we began looking for GPS equipment it was strictly for guidance for the sprayer. We were not looking at any brand in particular, just something to replace the foam marker system. We were at that time and still are using a John Deere 4010 pulling a homemade pull type sprayer. Our planter tractor was a 2 cylinder pulling a 6 row 7000 planter and was using a John Deere 105 and 7720 combines. This wasn't back in the 70s either but within the last 10 years. Needless to say when we tried talking to a dealer, they weren't too serious about talking to us. We wound up getting an Outback STS system which worked great and was a very cost effective way to have guidance.

After a few years we was able to purchase a Kinze planter that was already equipped with ag leader row clutches. It didn't take very long to see all the seed we were saving and were hooked. We could immediately tell that we wanted to install clutches on the other planters we were running. It is a lot of upfront cost in equipping a planter with clutches, plus buying the monitor to control it with. We were able to acquire enough used stuff to equip another planter for just a fraction of the cost of new. We then started to control our sprayer through our GPS system so that we could have automatic shutoffs. This saved as much as the row clutches on a planter plus made spraying so much easier.

We also equipped our anhydrous toolbars so we could run them through our GPS monitor to give us auto shutoffs on those, as well.

The next best thing we felt we did was install yield monitors on our combines, which by this point had upgraded to a 9600 along with the 7720. It took a little while to convince Dad that it was going to be a tool that would pay and not just a toy so we can tell everyone at the coffee shop we had 300 bu. corn. Since we were mapping everything as we planted we were then able to track each hybrid through the field as we harvested. This made it very easy to pick out hybrids as you could tell how they did throughout the entire field.

Our next problem was we were mapping every pass we made through the field including spreading dry, applying anhydrous, spraying, planting, and harvesting. Now what do we do with all the data? There are a lot of companies out there that can take this data in and turn it into useful information. We decided we wanted to manage all our own data and so bought the software to be able to. It is not exactly the most user friendly thing to do and if I had it to do over again would probably have just hired it done. We knew we had more upgrades we wanted to do in the near future though and felt it would be best done ourselves. We now had the ability to print all our maps, write variable rate planting and fertilizer prescriptions, plus lots of other very valuable things.

There are two big steps we plan on doing in our operation in the near future. The first one is grid sampling. We would have already done this except for the fact we spread all our own fertilizer using a Dempster fertilizer cart that is ground drive. Well, we did some thinking and decided that it wouldn't be that hard to install the needed parts to be able to hydraulically run it. This way we can write a fertilizer prescription and load it into GPS monitor and then be able to variable rate our fertilizer.

The next big step for us is variable rate planting. Currently all our planters are ground drive. In the last year several people are going to electric drive

row clutches and removing their hydraulic motors that ran the planter. I have picked up several of these and hope to have our bean planter converted over so I can write my own planting prescription and variable rate. We plan on basing the majority of our planting prescriptions off of our harvest maps that we have been collecting for the last few years.

What allowed us to be able to equip all our equipment so fast was we started purchasing used precision equipment. Basically every major item we have was bought used with only a few miscellaneous new cables purchased. EBay has yielded some very good buys along with craigslist. I will warn you though to be sure you know what you're buying; not all monitors are created equal. Some have unlocks that others don't and can cost quite a bit to buy if a particular unlock is needed.

(Continued on page 14)



LEADERS WANTED

CornRoots
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Applications are now being accepted for the sixth class of the Missouri Corn Growers Association (MCGA) CornRoots Leadership Academy. Apply today if you're a corn farmer concerned about the impact government is having on your industry:

www.mocorn.org/policy/grassroots

Young Farmer advisors share 41 years of experience

by Jennie Bedsworth

Tom Primmer

In his role as an educator, Tom Primmer has taught children in 4-H from around age 8 and continued to mentor them in to their 50s. He is known for his good advice at the Adair County Young Farmer chapter in Kirksville.

The advisor is in his 41st year of teaching and assisting others and works full-time now with adults. He tells the story of an elderly farmer who used to call him every year and wouldn't prepare or plant his corn before he got Primmer's annual advice. The farmer also called him for help with mechanical issues. "He finally got to the point where he wanted to know if I would just plant his 40 acres," says Primmer, adding "which I did."

Primmer graduated from Illinois State University with an ag education degree in 1975, spending his first year at Grant Park, Ill. Following the tax levy failing for that program, he bought a farm in Knox County, Mo., where there was also an opening for a vocational ag teacher as well as a special education position which is his wife Colleen's field.

The two moved from a 30-minute drive to Chicago to outside of a town of 1,200 people. "It was quite a culture shock for my wife who had never lived in the country," he explains. They rented a house for \$40 a

month.

For the first 25 years Primmer was a full-time high school teacher, and in 1999 Kirksville expanded the program. For six years he taught high school half-time and adult classes the other half. In 2005, he moved to full time adult education and has remained in that role since.

He notes that one of his most memorable events was hosting the summer tour, stating, "It was fun to see how well our members and the community came together." He says his long tenure with Kirksville is due to "a good school system in a supportive community." Primmer's been active in Missouri Young Farmers for many years and has attended the National Institute all over the country as well as in Mexico. "I always marvel at the diversity of agriculture in the country and throughout the state of Missouri," he says, adding, "I always encourage our young farmers to attend both the state and national tours."

He particularly enjoys the events that involve family, and shares that he and his wife have two daughters and son-in-laws as well as three grandchildren. He and Colleen also raise beef cattle, forage crops and hogs and continue to show hogs.

Primmer also enjoys working with the families of his students, noting "I had many high school students that

liked to make sure I knew that I had also taught their parents. Some of the best memories of my first job include hearing from past students that I had an influence on them."



*The Primmer Family
L to R . Reid Miller , Joel Miller ,
Katie (Primmer) Miller , Colleen
Primmer , Audrey Miller , Kellie
(Primmer) Bishop , Bruce Bishop ,
Colton Bishop , Tom Primmer*

Steve Yates

Steven Yates never underestimates the value of adult education in an agriculture program. His advice to secondary teachers is that “You cannot afford not to be involved with adult education in your community.”

In his 41st year of teaching, his students haven’t been able to afford being without his guidance and advising. He is the instructor and advisor at the Monroe City Young Farmers chapter.

Yates began recognizing the value of adult education early on. In 1974 he began as a high school agriculture instructor at Van-Far. He taught for two years and then says he “took a year off to see if the grass was greener on the other side of the fence,” as a herdsman for a dairy farm. While this didn’t turn in to a career for him, it gave him some experience to consider teaching from a distance, he explains. After a year on the dairy farm he accepted a high school agriculture instructor position at Monroe City where he began to develop his trade.

While he wasn’t an adult instructor at this time, he found a valuable mentor in Don LaRue who lead the adult program and he was involved in both levels of education. After LaRue retired, he moved in to the adult instructing role, and already had the strong sense of its importance.

“Many people are life-long learners,” he says, “and even today with information as readily available as pushing a button most people still prefer the one to one contact with a presenter or speaker.” He adds that it can be particularly rewarding working with adults who want to come to classes, and it helps programs build support and contacts in the community.



Steve Yates with his oldest grandchild, Emmett Hartman

Yates stays active and a few years ago launched a raised-garden program. He and his wife JoLynn have traveled throughout northeast Missouri and beyond to teach this class – even teaching one session for a group of 250 women while they enjoyed drinks at a winery. This program has proven very successful and has lead to around 90 people in the area creating raised bed gardens. He sees this as a lesson for others, and encourages them to find the place in their community that helps them be more involved and rooted.

His family also helps keep Yates rooted, and he boasts of his wife, four children, and six grandchildren. His girls live further away, while his son still lives locally and helps with the family farm.

Yates and his wife enjoy being part of Missouri Young Farmers and enjoy most the state tours, including one hosted by Monroe City in the 1980s. “Some of my best memories come from the lasting relationships and the bond with other ag teachers.”



Visit our website at:

www.moyoungfarmers.org

Looking for the Next Generation of Leaders



With a growing disconnect between consumers and farmers, a burdensome political and regulatory environment and the rising average age of farmers, agriculture must identify new leaders in our industry. That was the thought that led the Missouri Corn Growers Association (MCGA) to form the Missouri CornRoots Leadership Academy. Now accepting applications for the sixth class, the leadership program is designed to arm corn industry champions with tools to become active in the political process.

Through an all-expense paid, three-part training academy, CornRoots members gain a better understanding of how the political system works and join industry professionals to advocate on behalf of corn farmers. Program participants travel to Jefferson City and Washington D.C., to visit with key legislators and get a firsthand view of what goes on behind the scenes. When it comes to farm policy, legislators and regulators need to hear directly from producers.

“I think it’s important that they [policy makers] get to see the real farmer who comes in the door and wants to have some issues talked about,” Nathan White said in a Brownfield radio interview. White is a fifth generation farmer in Norborne, Mo., and Corn Roots Leadership Academy member. “I know it’s going to be a lot harder to make a dollar in agriculture for the next couple years. So I just want to make sure they’re aware of that before they start raising our taxes.”

The CornRoots training also provides methods to

Poor Man’s Start in Precision Ag
(Continued from page 11)

In our case we are able to do all of our own installs on the equipment. If you are going to have to hire your local precision dealer to do the install they aren’t going to like installing something you bought somewhere else. Also they may charge more for a service call if needed. I’m very lucky to have very helpful and knowledgeable support staff in my area to assist when needed. No brand of system is trouble free so be sure that whatever you run has the resources to answer your questions. It’s not a very good feeling to be

successfully network with legislators and other leaders. Another component helps attendees learn how to effectively utilize social media and work with reporters to share their message in a productive and positive way. Whether an individual is working with a team or speaking with policy makers, communicating a clear, impactful message is crucial to sharing ideas and creating action.

“The Missouri CornRoots Leadership Academy is a partner in providing the skills and opportunities to become more involved in the legislative process,” says Samantha Davis, MCGA associate director of public policy. “Together we can stand as one strong voice for Missouri’s corn growers.”

Applications for the 2016-2017 class are available online at <http://www.mocorn.org/policy/grassroots/> with the first session slated for December 12-13. Interested growers and industry associates are encouraged to apply. For more information, contact Samantha Davis at (573) 893-4181 or sdavis@mocorn.org.

unable to spray because of a minor monitor problem.

All this having been said, the abilities and uses of precision equipment are endless. Don’t let stories of what others are doing overwhelm you. You don’t have to jump in all at once. Just slowly do as we did and buy what you can when you can. Don’t worry about what color or age your equipment is, something can be made to work on it. Talk to others and see where they started and what brands they felt fit their needs the best. I always enjoy talking to people about our projects and what others have done or tried.

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Summer Missouri Agriculture Events

July 22	Santa Fe Agri-leader Annual Golf Tournament, Indian Foothills, Marshall
July 25	Missouri Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture Golf Tournament, Jackson
July 24-26	Missouri Agritourism Conference, Chesterfield
July 25-28	Missouri Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association Conference, Springfield
July 28-30	Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives Summer Tour, Boonville (<i>Registration inside</i>)
August 11-21	Missouri State Fair

NYFEA invites you to join us at the 50th Annual Institute in Tampa, Florida.

Since 1966 the NYFEA has hosted Institutes from one corner of the United States to another. Young farmers from many different states have experienced the blessings of agriculture from livestock to row crops to horticulture to agribusiness. It has been a unique learning experience that has been unparalleled. Today's Institute allows for experiential learning and leadership training to occur under the same umbrella. To the many people that have made this a part of their regular routine, Thank You! To the people that are willing to try this for the first time, you are welcome!

Tampa will be a great host! City tours are Thursday and farm and agribusiness tours are Friday. The Saturday program is about Celebrating 50 Years!!!!

We will have more information in the Fall issue of the Missouri Young Farmer Newsletter and you can visit <http://www.nyfea.org/home.html> for more information and to register on-line.

